



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,989	07/13/2006	Atsushi Yoshida	2006_1119A	8862
52349 7590 08/27/2010 WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK L.L.P. 1030 15th Street, N.W. Suite 400 East Washington, DC 20005-1503			EXAMINER ANYIKIRE, CHIKAODILI E	
			ART UNIT 2621	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 08/27/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ddalecki@wenderoth.com
coa@wenderoth.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/585,989

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

CHIKAODILI E. ANYIKIRE

Art Unit

2621

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-8 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-06)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application is responsive to application number (10/585989) filed on July 13, 2006. Claims 1-12 are pending and have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Acknowledgement is made of applicant's information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1,3-8, and 10-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al (US 6,690,374, hereafter Park).

As per **claim 1**, Park discloses a camera terminal in a monitoring system for imaging a monitoring subject region by operating, in coordination with one another, multiple camera terminals, said camera terminal comprising:

a camera having a function to change an imaging region (Figure 1 elements C1-C9; column 3 lines 40 – 45);

a communication unit (Figure 2 element 201) operable to transmit and receive information identifying the imaging region to and from other camera terminals (column 4 lines 15 – 26); and

an adjusting unit operable, where each camera terminal has a monitoring responsible region which is an imaging region to be monitored, and based on the information received by said communication unit from another camera terminal, to determine the monitoring responsible region to which the camera terminal belongs so that the monitoring responsible region to which the camera terminal belongs adjoins, without a gap, the monitoring responsible region of the another camera terminal or a boundary of the monitoring subject region, as well as to adjust the imaging region of said camera so that an entire monitoring responsible region is imaged (column 4 lines 35 – 47; Park indicates that there is an overlap between the camera subsystems and an shift (i.e., adjusting) between these systems), and

wherein said adjusting unit is operable to determine a region surrounding a first reference point as the monitoring responsible region, according to i) at least one perpendicular bisector of a line of segment connecting the first reference point provided within the imaging region to which the camera terminal belongs and a second reference point provided within an imaging region of another camera terminal adjoining to the imaging region to which the camera terminal belongs or ii) the perpendicular bisector and a boundary of the monitoring subject region (column 4 lines 65 – 67 and column 5 lines 5 – 16; Parks discloses a teaches of the boundary).

As per **claim 3**, Park discloses the camera terminal according to claim 1, wherein the first reference point is coordinates on the monitoring subject region projected in the center of the camera terminal to which the image plane belongs (column 5 lines 54 – 65).

As per **claim 4**, Park discloses the camera terminal according to claim 1, wherein the first reference point is the center coordinates of the imaging region to which the camera terminal belongs (column 5 lines 54 – 65).

As per **claim 5**, Park discloses the camera terminal according to claim 1, wherein said camera further has a function to change a position of the imaging region;

said adjusting unit further has a monitoring responsible region comparison-evaluator to determine a position of the imaging region for adjusting the monitoring responsible region to which the camera terminal belongs closer to the size of a monitoring responsible region adjacent to the monitoring responsible region by comparing and evaluating the monitoring responsible region to which the camera terminal belongs and the monitoring responsible region adjacent to the monitoring responsible region (column 5 lines 5-16 and lines 54 – 65); and

said camera controller controls said camera in order to approximate to the position of the imaging region determined by said monitoring responsible region comparison-evaluator (column 6 lines 20 – 35).

As per **claim 6**, Park discloses the camera terminal according to claim 5, wherein said monitoring responsible region comparison-evaluator determines the position of the

imaging region by moving the first reference point so as to equalize the distance from the first reference point to each boundary of the monitoring responsible region (column .5-16 and column 6 lines 20 – 35)

As per **claim 7**, Park discloses the camera terminal according to claim 1, wherein said camera further has a function to control a direction of line of sight, and

said adjusting unit further has an adjustment unit for direction of line of sight for adjusting the direction of line of sight of said camera for adjusting the configuration of the imaging region closer to the configuration of the monitoring responsible region (column 5 lines 54 – 65).

As per **claim 8**, Park discloses the camera terminal according to claim 7, wherein, in an evaluation function to evaluate a difference between the configurations of the imaging region and the monitoring responsible region, said adjustment unit for direction of line of sight is operable to determine the direction of line of sight of said camera in order to approximate an evaluated value by said the evaluation function to a target value when the evaluated value at the time of coincidence of the configurations of the imaging region with the monitoring responsible region is a target value (column 54 – 65 and column 6 lines 20-35).

As per **claim 10**, Park discloses a monitoring system for imaging a monitoring subject region by cooperatively operating multiple camera terminals, and said monitoring system comprising:

the multiple camera terminals according to claim 1, and a communication path connecting said camera terminals (column 4 lines 15 – 26).

Regarding **claim 11**, arguments are analogous to those presented for claim 1 are applicable for claim 11.

As per **claim 12**, Park discloses a program for one camera terminal in a monitoring system for imaging a monitoring subject region by operating, in coordination with one another, multiple camera terminals,

wherein said program executes the steps included in the monitoring method according to claim 11 (column 10 lines 13 – 20).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2 and 9 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHIKAODILI E. ANYIKIRE whose telephone number is (571)270-1445. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 5 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (571) 272 - 7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marsha D. Banks-Harold/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/Chikaodili Anyikire/
Patent Examiner AU 2621